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UNCLAS DHAKA 000524

SIPDIS

FOR I/FW, B/G, IIP/G/NEA-SA, B/VOA/N (BANGLA SERVICE) STATE  
FOR SA/PAB, SA/PPD (LSCENSNY, SSTRYKER), SA/RA, INR/R/MR,  
AND PASS TO USAID FOR ANE/ASIA/SA/B (WJOHNSON)

CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR, J51 (MAJ TURNER), J45  
(MAJ NICHOLLS)

USARPAC FOR APOP-IM (MAJ HEDRICK)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [OPRC](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [BG](#) [OCII](#)  
SUBJECT: Media Reaction: President Bush's State of the Union  
Address; Dhaka

Summary: Many newspapers express concern about the  
President's state of the union address.

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STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS  
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"Bush's Hard-Fisted Diplomacy"  
Independent English language daily "New Age" editorially  
commented (02/06/05):

President George W. Bush has demonstrated in his latest  
State of the Union address the characteristics, which his  
earlier two-term predecessors have shown, which is to  
emphasis America's role in the world. But where this  
president differs from those earlier ones is in his  
determination to see the world in terms of black and white.  
Mr. Bush and the people around him have had little time in  
the last four years to consider anything of the grayish kind  
in their politics. It now appears that the habit or  
inclination has not changed. For Bush supporters in America,  
that may be a good instance of strong leadership. For the  
outside world, it is a matter of serious worry.

The US President has singled out Iran and Syria in his  
speech as sponsors of terrorism. He has thus made it clear  
that the war on terror he inaugurated in the aftermath of 11  
September 2001 will go on as long as he does not get his  
way. That attitude is fraught with huge risks, for it once  
more raises the specter of a world where American soldiers,  
in company with their allies, will take upon themselves the  
job of correcting what they think is wrong.

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"President Bush's State of the Union Address"  
Independent English daily "The News Today" editorial  
(02/05/05) comments:

Reading through President George W. Bush's second state of  
the union address one gets the chilling feeling that the  
next four years of his presidency would be no different from  
his first term as he continues to speak in the language of  
weapons. In fact there is nothing in his address to feel  
cheerful about or to raise the spirits of a world living in  
constant fear of unilateral U.S. decisions.

The main focus of the address is the troubled Middle East.  
He refused to set a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq, has  
warned Syria and Iran in no uncertain terms, rebuked allies  
like Saudi Arabia and Egypt for not doing enough to  
democratize their countries and was ecstatic in claiming  
that a Palestinian state was within reach at long last. It  
was never in doubt that U.S. troops would stay in Iraq  
indefinitely or may even permanently if the new Iraqi regime  
so desires but that perhaps means until a stooge enough  
regime is in place to request a permanent presence.

Thomas